

Over the last few years, many of us have been fighting to save the Hoan Bridge and ensure the safety of the more than 40,000 people who drive across it every day.

Bay View, South Milwaukee, St. Francis, Cudahy, Oak Creek and other southern suburbs can breathe a sigh of relief now that WisDot has announced plans to redeck the bridge.

Last summer I spoke on the floor of the House about the urgent need to fix the bridge. Click [here](#) to watch my floor speech.

This is a win, win. Of utmost importance, redecking the bridge ensures the safety of the people who use it every day and puts to ease concerns about the bridge's structural integrity. Furthermore, this construction extends the bridge's life by 40 to 50 years and literally paves the way to future economic development along Milwaukee County's south shore.

We fought for vital repairs and even against efforts to completely tear it down because we know, just like the Southside communities, that the Hoan Bridge is not just a landmark. It is a vital piece of our economy.

Last year, I asked then-Governor Doyle to redeck the bridge and perform necessary maintenance and repairs. And last summer when chunks of concrete were falling from the bridge, I worked with state and local officials to identify federal resources that could be used for repair.

No matter who is in charge in Madison, this connector is crucial to our cities and our entire region's economy. I stand ready to work with officials in Madison to help advance this project. It is one of my highest transportation priorities because moving forward on this project paves the way to further economic development in our southside communities.

